

REMARKS

The Examiner's recognition of Applicants' invention by the allowance of claims 6-13 and the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 15-17 is gratefully acknowledged.

Pursuant to the amendment, claim 14 is drawn to a method for assembling a valve deactivation hydraulic valve lifter and recites the step of coupling a spring tower to a pin housing sub-assembly, as originally recited in claim 15, now canceled.

Claim 16 is made dependent upon claim 14, following the cancellation of the intervening claim.

Rejection of Claim 14

Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by United States Patent No. 3,124,115, issued to Voorhies. Claim 14 was also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,606,972, issued to Wenisch et al.

Referring to Fig. 3, Applicants' invention relates to assembling a valve deactivation hydraulic valve lifter that includes pin housing 20 having a first groove 34' and second groove 50. Prior to final assembly, an expansion ring 30 is disposed in the second groove to retain the components within the pin housing. When the spring tower is coupled to the sub-assembly, the expansion ring is moved from the second groove 50 into

the first groove 34'. This allows a longer plunger return spring, which prevents mis-installation, and provides a stable sub-assembly for purposes of shipping, page 7, lines 25-28.

In Voorhies, referring to Fig. 1, the plunger and associated parts are held by a ring 16 in an unnumbered groove. The rejection points to groove 20 as corresponding to one of the grooves in Applicants' invention. However, ring 16 remains seated in the unnumbered groove in the final assembly and is never received into groove 20. Thus, the ring does not move from one groove into the other, as in Applicants' assembly method. Wenisch shows a retainer ring in the final assembly, but does not provide a second groove for temporarily receiving the ring prior to the final assembly. Thus, neither Voorhies nor Wenisch anticipate, or even suggest, Applicants' invention.

Claim 14 is amended to point out that, in Applicants' method, the expansion ring is moved from the second groove into the first groove when the spring tower is coupled to the subassembly. Neither Voorhies nor Wenisch provide a second groove for the expansion ring to retain the components within the pin housing prior to the final assembly. Thus, the references do not teach or suggest Applicants' method in claim 14.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of the claim 14 be reconsidered and withdrawn, and that the claims be allowed.

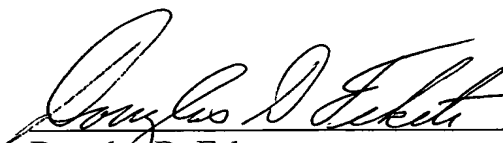
Conclusion

Claims 16-17 were objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim. In view of the amendments and remarks herein, it is believed that the base claim is now allowable. Accordingly, it is requested that the objection be withdrawn, and that all claims be allowed.

If it would further prosecution of the application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned at the phone number provided.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 50-0831.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas D. Fekete", written over a horizontal line.

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